



**Northern California
Chapter**

**We're training tomorrow's
skilled workforce today.**
abcnorcal.org

April 21, 2020

Mayor Rich Tran
City of Milpitas
455 E. Calaveras Blvd.
Milpitas, CA 95035

Re: Agenda Item 13. Receive and Direct Staff on Scheduling Agenda Items Requested by City Councilmembers – Community Workforce Agreement

On behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors Northern California Chapter (ABC NorCal) and its nearly 500 essential construction and construction related firms representing 21,000 merit shop construction workers, we greatly appreciate your dedication and professionalism in response to the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID 19). We would like to acknowledge the extensive effort all local governments have exhibited to work collaboratively with our industries to support the local economy while protecting the public safety.

We were all shocked to learn that a record number of Americans have filed for first-time unemployment - higher than anytime in US history. With the speed of the crash of the economy, we are sure that you share our concern and ongoing desire to keep some elements of the economy moving. The construction industry is predicated on maintaining a safe workplace. Our members provide an essential service to the public that should continue.

Our members have been implementing strict measures to ensure the safety of our workforce and the community during these times. They have significantly enhanced and modified their safety and stop work plans to effectively mitigate the risk for workers and their families. Our industry remains committed to the health and welfare of our workforce and the public while continuing to build a better California. The work performed by these frontline men and women is not only helping to ease a negative impact on public health but is also helping to create a better quality of life for all of our residents.

The scale of this global crisis is unprecedented, and so is the scope of the local government response. California cities of all sizes are coordinating across jurisdictional lines, enacting emergency measures to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, taking action to protect individuals and small businesses on the economic margins, while spending such sums as necessary to protect public health.

There is no question Cities and towns across the Bay Area will need financial assistance to persevere through the hardship resulting from rising costs and decreasing tax revenue and fees due to COVID-19. As you continue to face unprecedented challenges on the frontlines of responding to the coronavirus outbreak in your community and doing what is necessary to ensure the health and safety of their residents, we believe now is not the time to be prioritizing a community workforce agreement.

Every contractor survey that has ever been conducted about Community Workforce Agreements (CWAs) show they decrease competition, increase costs and are a disincentive to bid.

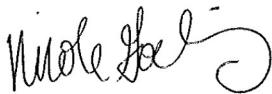
Also known as Project Labor Agreements (PLAs), we have consistently found them to create barriers for local, minority and women-owned construction employers and their employees from participating in building their community because they contain provisions that do not allow for the complete utilization of their skilled and trained workforces and exclude the men, women, and veterans who have graduated from state approved, unilateral apprenticeship training programs in pursuit of a construction career that provides stability for them, their family and their community.

It is our number one priority that our state and federally approved apprentices have ample training opportunities to fulfill their required on the job training hours in order to graduate from our apprenticeship program and become journeymen and women. PLAs/CWAs take away that opportunity.

Let's not push construction professionals away from well-paying career opportunities within their community. Let's continue to keep the work open for those essential workers who want to work, support their families and their community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request to remove the community workforce agreement from your list of council agenda item requests. Instead, let's work together on solutions that will remove barriers and maximize opportunities for all Milpitas taxpayers and residents. Please include this correspondence in your April 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Please contact me at nicole@abcnorcal.org or 925-960-8513.

Sincerely,



Nicole Goehring
V.P. Government and Community Affairs
ABC NorCal

Cc: Vice Mayor Bob Nuñez
Councilmember Karina R. Dominguez
Councilmember Carmen Montano
Councilmember Anthony Phan

About ABC:

ABC NorCal represents nearly 500 companies, both large and small, across Northern California. We are the construction professionals in your community, building your community. ABC NorCal is committed to helping people earn, learn and build construction careers in their communities. In addition to providing work opportunities in the industry, we ensure folks are trained, safe and delivering the highest quality product possible.

For over forty years ABC NorCal has done its part in training a skilled workforce in the construction trades, training over 1,500 state and federally approved apprentices, journey workers, and craft trainees each year, a vital component to the sustainability of the industry. Our diverse apprentices, journey workers and craft trainees come from all walks of life – some are fresh out of high school, some are starting a second career and some are desiring a fresh start. They emerge from the programs with a good-paying job; health benefits and the skills and training that can take their career in many directions. It is truly a path of endless opportunities.

ABC NorCal, along with its partner programs have proven track records that reduce recidivism rates, improve job readiness skills, and create long-term employment. Our partnership is a vital piece of ensuring a pathway out of poverty for the participants and a critical service to the Northern California construction community. ABC NorCal is a National Center for Construction Training & Education (NCCER) Accredited Training Facility and Assessment center.

With the state facing a Craft Professional Demand of 533,136 through December 2022, we remain committed to be the solution provider for a diverse skilled and trained workforce to build and rebuild California.